

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Measure Cosponsored by Rep. Bacchiochi To Aid CT Dairy Farmers Passes House**



Legislation (House Bill 5573) cosponsored by state Representative Penny Bacchiochi, R-52nd District, that will assist Connecticut's dairy farmers has been approved by the state House of Representatives.

The measure, which was approved unanimously by the State House May 19th, would require the state Milk Regulation Board to complete a comprehensive study of Connecticut's dairy industry and add two members to the panel who are engaged in milk processing, Representative Bacchiochi said.

"Milk production in Connecticut has fallen off over the years, making it more difficult for our remaining dairy farmers to keep up with demand. At the same time, prices have been going up, making milk less affordable to many families," Representative Bacchiochi said. "If the trend continues, milk supplies will continue to decline and many dairy farms could be lost forever as farmers sell off their properties."

"This bill will increase the number of members on the Milk Regulation Board who are directly involved in the industry and are committed to its continued existence and success," Representative Bacchiochi said. "Their contribution to the board's deliberations could help revitalize dairy farming and keep it healthy and competitive for years to come."

"The study will look into the problems facing the dairy industry in Connecticut and could generate new initiatives to improve dairy farm income and help preserve a vital sector of our state's economy," Representative Bacchiochi said. "The last study was done 15 years ago and many of the problems that were identified then still exist today and need to be resolved."

The study will look into:

- Milk production costs.

- State dairy farmers' ability to meet milk supply demands.
- Regional milk price equity.
- Milk supply and price issues relating to dairy farmers, consumers, processors, and retailers.

The legislation now awaits final legislative action by the State Senate.